

CONGRESSMAN BILL PASCRELL, JR. BRINGS HEALTH FAIR TO CONSTITUENTS



Dear Friend:

As New Jerseyans, we live in one of the most advanced and innovative health care markets in the world. The possibilities for the health sciences in research, diagnostics, treatments and cures for illness are boundless here in our state.

One of the challenges we face is ensuring that these breakthroughs and resulting health benefits get to the people of New Jersey. We must make certain that all citizens have access to timely, quality care in order to be and stay healthy.

An important component for achieving a healthier New Jersey is preventive care. Study after study has shown that preventive care, which helps *prevent* health problems or finds them before they become serious, is cost effective and leads to fewer serious health episodes.

With this in mind, I would like to invite you to join me at the 2008 Spring Health Fair at Clara Maass Medical Center for a day of free health screenings. This partnership of medical professionals will be on hand to provide information on the screening tests, the results, possible treatments and on-site access to financial assistance in paying for prescription medications.

I encourage you to set aside a moment to take advantage of this opportunity to protect and improve your health.

Sincerely,

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

CONGRESSMAN BILL PASCRELL, JR. INVITES YOU TO HIS 2008 CONGRESSIONAL HEALTH FAIR

Monday April 7, 2008 10 A.M. — 2 P.M.

At Clara Maass Medical Center

1 Clara Maass Drive Belleville, New Jersey

HEALTH FAIR WILL INCLUDE:

**Blood Pressure Screening, Cholesterol Screening, Glaucoma Screening,
Body Fat Analysis, Anxiety Assessments, Self Breast Exam Instruction,
Healthy Heart Nutritional Counseling, Pre-Natal Education and Counseling,
Smoking Cessation Information**

The HealthCare Institute of New Jersey will provide information on free and reduced cost prescription drugs. A representative will be on hand to answer questions and assist in enrollment.

For more information, please call 973-523-5152

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U.S. Representative Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Serving New Jersey's Eighth Congressional District

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CONGRESSMAN BILL PASCRELL, JR.

WORKING FOR YOU

FIGHTING FOR A HEALTHY NEW JERSEY

SAVING MEDICARE

One in seven Americans, and virtually all of the population aged 65 and over, depends on Medicare. This successful program has helped millions of aged and disabled persons meet many of their health care needs for nearly 43 years. As a member of the Ways and Means Committee, I am charged with helping to ensure the integrity and viability of this critical program.

We certainly have our work cut out for us. Several weeks ago, the Administration put forward a proposed budget that would cut Medicare by \$556 billion over 10 years – largely on the backs of hospitals. This cut is more than double what was proposed last year and Congress rejected.

Bearing more than 70 percent of the budget cuts, hospitals are hit hardest with a reduction of \$382 billion over 10 years. Hospitals in New Jersey would lose nearly \$3 billion in federal funding over the next five years if this budget is approved. Nearly half of the 78 hospitals in New Jersey are already in the red due to inadequate federal funding. Cuts of this magnitude could devastate New Jersey's health-care system.

Amazingly, the budget targets our nation's teaching hospitals. The proposal will damage our ability to train a generation of new doctors at a time when the nation is facing a shortage of doctors. This is exactly the opposite direction in which we need to move. I will join my colleagues in Congress to ensure these cuts do not pass.

Additionally, I recently introduced legislation, HR 5426, that will bring equity to a deficient Medicare compensation formula currently used to reimburse



Congressman Pascrell meets with seniors to discuss Medicare in Clifton

teaching hospitals such as St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center in Paterson.

Indeed, more than 600 American hospitals are being reimbursed by Medicare at an inadequate level for their work in training America's doctors of tomorrow. These costs bear little, if any, relationship to the actual cost of operating their training program in the 21st century.

In New Jersey alone, our teaching hospitals have lost about \$6.9 million due to this flawed system and I will fight to remedy this unfairness.

I introduced this measure in the interest of America's hospitals, medical students, and the Medicare patients who will one day depend on their doctors to have the highest level of training and expertise.

Without it, I am extremely concerned that these unsustainable losses will threaten the future of our nation's healthcare infrastructure.

PROTECTING OUR FUTURE – CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE

Congress created the State Children's Health Insurance Program, or SCHIP, in 1997 with broad bipartisan support and the program has been a tremendous success. In 2007, six million children had access to quality, affordable health insurance because of SCHIP. These children are in working families with



Congressman Pascrell met with students from Nutley's Franklin Middle School outside the US Capitol after their tour.

parents who either can't afford insurance or hold jobs that lack health care benefits.

Congress took the opportunity to provide health care coverage to an additional 3.8 million uninsured children who are eligible for, but not currently enrolled, in SCHIP. There are over 100,000 of these eligible but unenrolled children in New Jersey alone.

The legislation enjoyed support from members of both Democrats and Republicans and the American public. However, despite revisions to address concerns of opponents, President Bush twice vetoed bipartisan legislation that would have allowed millions of American children living without health insurance a way to get proper medical care.

The existing SCHIP program was extended in December until March 2009— but without covering any additional children. Despite this extension we will continue fighting throughout 2008 until a bill is enacted that strengthens the SCHIP program and ensures health care coverage for 10 million children. You have my word on it.